

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND HOME-COMING A GLORIOUS SUCCESS

**Magnificent Parade of Ex-Soldiers on Wednesday Afternoon with 1,000 Veterans in Line.**

**Complete Report of Judge S. F. Steele's Historical Sketch of Hillsboro.**

**Address of the Veteran Editor, J. L. Boardman, Reported in Full. Addresses by Many Prominent Citizens.**

The Hillsboro Centennial Celebration and Highland County Home-Coming was a success up to and beyond the fondest expectations of the most enthusiastic citizens. Former sons and daughters returned from all parts of the earth by hundreds and thousands, and all speak in the very highest terms of the manner of their entertainment. From the beginning to the end the program was all that could be desired. There was not a dull moment.

The occasion will be a memorable one in the history of our city and county. Not less than 25,000 persons were present on Tuesday and 15,000 on Wednesday. Both among the largest crowds ever in our little city.

On Tuesday, the first general day on the program, the exercises opened with band concerts by the five bands in different parts of the city. At 10:30 the general parade of the school children, military, civic, industrial and fraternal bodies started and was the greatest ever seen in this county and has been equaled by few in the larger cities of the state. Over 5,000 persons participated. Practically all the business houses and manufacturing concerns were represented by handsome and costly floats. All secret and fraternal societies turned out their full membership. The parade was over three miles in length and was one hour and twenty minutes passing through the public square. The Hillsboro Military Band led with Smith's Famous Cincinnati Band, Price's Greenfield Band, the Leesburg Band and the Hillsboro Colored Band and a drum corps scattered through the procession. It is impossible to give a detailed description of the parade, but suffice to say that Hillsboro surprised herself by her magnificent showing. You had to see it to appreciate it.

The afternoon was exactly according to program and delighted the greatest crowd ever in our city. The singing of "America" by 500 school children was especially appropriate and pleasing. Judge Cyrus Newby made the address of welcome, which was responded to by Dr. Rodney Trimble, of New Vienna.

Hon. J. L. Boardman, the blind editor of Columbus, formerly editor of the NEWS-HERALD for thirty years, had a most excellent paper. We give it in full elsewhere. The historical sketch of Judge S. F. Steele is also published in full. Many of the other addresses deserve equal treatment, but space forbids.

Guard mount on the public square at 5:30 by the Hillsboro Military company, led by Smith's Band, was practically perfect.

At night the grandest display of fireworks ever given in this city or county was witnessed by the largest crowd ever assembled here. Of the many fine effects one was a picture of Hon. Joseph B. Foraker, which was greeted with applause. A military ball at the Armory and numerous band concerts were among the other attractions.

The decorations of all business houses and residence were superb. This city was never in such handsome dress. Everyone not only tried to equal but also to outdo his neighbor, and the result was simply magnificent.

Wednesday the crowd was large. About 15,000 to 20,000. The program was entirely military. Senator J. B. Foraker made three speeches. An old comrade talk at the reunion of his regiment, the 80th O. V. I., in which he enlisted when 16 years of age.

After this reunion the Sixtieth regiment, which was holding a meeting at the historic old court house, sent him an invitation to join them, but before doing so they unanimously passed the following resolutions:

Be it resolved by the surviving members of the Sixtieth O. V. I., in reunion now assembled, that we extend a vote of thanks to our distinguished guest and comrade, Senator J. B. Foraker, for defending on the floor of

the United States Senate our record as soldiers in the War of the Rebellion.

The Senator made a short address in which he mentioned the fact that the record of the Sixtieth Ohio Regiment had been cleared from the charge of insubordination brought against them by President Roosevelt as a precedent for his action in the wholesale discharge of the colored troops at Brownsville, when the soldiers were charged with shooting up the town.

The Senator, when a boy, first attempted to join the Sixtieth Regiment, but was refused on account of his age, and a few days later he joined the Eighty-ninth.

The military parade started promptly at 1 p. m. Smith's Band led with the local militia and over 900 old veterans of the civil war in line. The three patriotic floats of the Woman's Relief Corps were handsome and artistic and the singing of patriotic songs by the ladies and children with which they were crowded was a pleasing feature. A heavy shower just at two o'clock caught the rear end of the procession but did not dampen the enthusiasm though it wet the crowd.

Owing to the shower the organization of a Highland County Soldiers Association which had been assigned for the court house yard was postponed until the evening at the opera house when a permanent organization was formed and annual reunions assured for the future. At the soldiers' headquarters 947 names were registered.

At 2:30 the weather had cleared and the program as arranged was carried out on court house lawn. Senator Foraker spoke for an hour and a half to over 10,000 people and was the recipient of rounds of applause. He reviewed the civil and military history of Highland county and gave statistics of the troops furnished especially during the civil war. The Senator was in fine voice and his large audience was in sympathy with him at all times. Hundreds of his listeners were old army comrades and former friends and neighbors. With such an audience and such an orator the applause and enthusiasm can easily be imagined. That in Senator Foraker Highland county has produced an orator that has few if any equals in the county is certain.

The camp-fire at the opera house was attended by an enormous crowd in spite of the steady downpour of rain which set in about 6:30. It was an enjoyable occasion and was carried out according to the program as published in the NEWS-HERALD last week. The speeches, singing and music was of course patriotic. Besides Adjutant General of the National G. A. R., Joseph O'Neal, there were many other prominent speakers.

It is impossible to estimate the number of veterans from a distance who were in attendance during the four days of the celebration. Over fourteen hundred registered at the general registration rooms and at the soldiers' headquarters. That there were hundreds and probably thousands who did not take the trouble to register is certain.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES.

The opening exercises of the Centennial Anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro were given by the Sunday School from 9:15 to 10:15 Sunday morning and consisted of songs, prayers, short talks and a few questions by Rev. Dunham Acting Superintendent. By his talking on the level of the Primary classes he showed his eminent fitness for this as well as for his regular pastoral work.

Dr. McSurely, Rev. Leslie Overman and Mr. Hugh Patton made timely, helpful and brief talk. They emphasized the necessity for good teachers and for example gave just and high tribute to the sainted Miss Grand Girard whose life as a teacher did so much for the church and community and whose influence still flows but as a stream of living water bringing rich fruitage year after year.

Long before 10:30 o'clock the main audience and memorial rooms were filled and at the close of Sunday School the chapel doors were thrown back and it was filled and many could not find seats.

While the audience was being seated Miss Madge Evans was at the organ discoursing sweet music.

The singing of the "Doxology" invocation by Dr. McSurely, hymn by the congregation, responsive reading led by Rev. Leslie Overman preceded the anthem, "Exalt Him All Ye People," by the choir. After prayer by the pastor, "How Firm a Foundation Ye

**Twenty-five Thousand Visitors in the City Tuesday.**

**Everyone Handsomely Entertained by Friends Lodges and Public Hostelrys.**

**Mammoth Civic, Military and Industrial Parade With Over 4,000 Persons in Line.**

**Magnificent Address by Joseph B. Foraker Enthused His Thousands of Old Friends.**

**Not a Hitch in the Proceedings That Will Mark An Epoch in the History of Our County.**

**Thousands of Former Highland County Citizens Spend an Enjoyable Week.**

**Presbyterian Church Exercises Added Greatly to the Success of the Centennial.**

"Saints of the Lord," was sung by the congregation, and followed by the reading of a part of the 14 chapter of John by Pres. Moffatt of Washington and Jefferson College. A selection on the flute by Dr. Henry Thompson and a solo "From Highest Heaven" his own composition, by Judge Tod B. Galloway were most enjoyable.

Pres. Moffatt's text was "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Founded on these common words put together, in a most uncommon way he gave an apt, scholarly and christian sermon in so plain and forceful words that he held his listeners' absolute attention throughout, for all felt and understood him and went out with a clearer conception of the every day practical life of a true follower of Christ.

The congregation sang "Come Holy Spirit Heavenly Dove" and were dismissed until 6:30 o'clock.

The Christian Endeavor Society had charge of the 6:30 o'clock meeting and gave an interesting program by the members. One of the very enjoyable features being a quartet singing of "Home Sweet Home" by little Misses Baker and Wilson and Willard Wilson and Hysart McMullen.

The address of Rev. Rohrer was strong and just what is needed by such societies. Dr. Carother of Greenfield gave a short reminiscent talk and then the meeting adjourned for the 7:30 exercises.

The time of evening meeting found the church again filled to overflowing. In the pulpit were Revs. McSurely, Carothers, Moffatt, Rohrer, Overman and Dunham.

Miss Evans' Voluntary was Braga's "Angel's Serenade" followed by an anthem, "God of our Father" by the choir. Invocation by Dr. Carothers, responsive reading led by Rev. Rohrer, congregational singing of "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord," Scripture lesson by Rev. Overman, prayer by Pres. Moffatt, announcements by the pastor and offertory was followed by a solo "The Lord is My Light" by E. L. Ferris Jr., of New York.

The historical sermon by Dr. McSurely was full of interesting facts given in that rich sweet voice which for thirty years spoke to his loving and loved church and it was the thought of all that Dr. McSurely's long unselfish and faithful pastoral work had done much to bring the church on toward the successful close of the first one hundred years. His motto "Jehovah hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad," was richly interpreted and justly applied to the First Presbyterian church of Hillsboro. He dwelt minutely upon the general history of the church from its organization to the present time.

At the close of the sermon the Male Quartette of the M. E. Church appeared and sang "The Lord will Comfort Thee." The Quartette excelled its always excellent singing and received merited appreciation of all. The services closed with the singing of "O God of Bethel" and the benediction.

Monday morning at 9 o'clock found a goodly number at the "Reminiscence" meeting with Dr. McSurely in charge. Full and enjoyable reminiscences were given by members. Mrs.

Anne Smith, William Herron, Hugh Patton and Rev. Leslie Overman. Judge Kibler of Newark gave a good talk and Jacob Saylor of the M. E. church and one of the oldest residents pleased every one by his reminiscence and good feeling and brotherly love talk. This meeting closed with the singing of the twenty-third Psalm led by William Herron and without the organ.

The services opened at 2:30 p. m. Monday with a cornet solo by Miss Mora Harsha and congregational singing of "Children of the Heavenly King."

After scripture reading and prayer a duet "Just as I am" was sung by Judge Tod B. Galloway, of Columbus, and E. L. Ferris, Jr., of New York.

The address of Pres. Moffatt was full of doctrinal truths and set forth plainly the present needs of the Presbyterian church in its preaching and showed how times have changed bringing a change in the needs and requirements of church work. The services closed with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."

The reception Monday night was a large and enjoyable one. Every one was at his or her best and a pleasing feature was to see the warm greeting given by and to the loved and efficient pastor, Rev. Warren Dunham, who till a little more than three years ago was a stranger to Hillsboro but who has so perfectly become one of us that we cannot feel that he is not a native.

The delightful music under the direction of the talented cornetist, Miss Harsha, was enjoyed to the fullest. To hear Catholics, Methodists and Presbyterians joining in the music certainly shows that the Christian sentiment and life of our little city are in a most healthful condition and it all augurs well for the future.

With the W. C. T. U. service of Tuesday morning the Centennial Celebration of the church closed.

The spending hour again found a well filled house of interested listeners and it seemed almost that the best was being given last. The voluntary by Miss Madge Evans, invocation by Rev. Warren B. Dunham and the scripture reading of Dr. W. J. McSurely seemed better than at any previous meeting.

The congregation sang "America" and then listened to William Christie Herron, President of the Cincinnati Peace and Arbitration Society. His address was a most comprehensive one and showed the erudition of this classical scholar and gave a higher and better idea for the audience to strive to attain.

The cornet solo, "Hosanna" by Miss Mora Harsha was given with great excellence. Rev. G. L. Hambleton, pastor of the First Baptist Church, pronounced the benediction and the audience dispersed to join in the general exercises of the day.

It is pleasant to note that not a single hitch occurred in the rendering of the program of services as planned by the pastor, also that the beautiful programs were printed upon the church press and under his direction.

The church and community certainly have been given an uplift and an onward movement by this rounding out of services in honor of the life of one hundred years of the church.

### HISTORIC SKETCH OF HILLSBORO BY JUDGE S. F. STEELE.

It has been said by an ancient writer that the purpose of looking upon the portrait of a departed ancestor, should be to remind us of his virtues and to inspire us to emulate his noble deeds.

And, so, the benefit of an occasion like this, which marks an era in our municipal life, should be found not only in the interest aroused by the recital of historical fact or traditional incident, but, also, in the lessons furnished for our future guidance, and in renewed effort for the growth and prosperity of our town.

The original plat of Hillsboro as surveyed and laid out by David Hays, the Director appointed by the Court for that purpose, was filed on the 5th day of September, 1807.

It was made upon a tract of two hundred acres of land bought of Benjamin Ellicott, of Maryland, and contained 197 in-lots and 20-out-lots.

When we recall that almost all of these in-lots were within the boundaries of North, East, South and West Streets, as then named and still so known, and compare this area with the present corporate limits of one mile in each direction from the center of the public square, we get a correct knowledge of the territorial growth of the town during the first century of its existence.

The first step toward the settlement of the place, was made by the sale of lots about October 1, 1807, and this brought here for location leading men from the rival settlements of New Market and Clear Creek, and elsewhere, who purchased lots, built houses and entered upon business of various kinds and became principal factors in the future development of the village.

Being an inland town, its immediate growth, was slow, although within the first few years of its life, substantial business houses were built on the north-west, south-west and south-east corners of the public square, and at other points, one of which on the Trimble corner, one on the Woodrow corner, now known as the Clifton House, and one on the Mattill corner are still standing.

The north-east corner of the square for a time left vacant, was afterward occupied by one-story frame shops, one of which was removed to a lot on East Walnut Street, opposite the colored church in "Black Rock," and is still occupied as a place of residence. The large brick building on this corner, lately remodeled and now occupied by the Merchant's National Bank and Smith's Shoe Store was erected in 1847; and in the room now occupied by Smith, a dinner was laid for the soldiers on their return from the Mexican War.

These brave boys were met at Millford by citizens in private conveyances and brought back with life and drum and waving flags. The whole town turned out to greet them, and many walked as far as Pike Chapel or Hoaglands to give them welcome.

Under the conditions then existing, the growth of the town could not be rapid.

They were unlike what we have seen in later years in the newer states, where lines of communication preceded the settlement of the country, and cities grew up in a night.

They were, then, no good roads or means of public transportation, and the absence of a local market compelled the farmer to drive his stock and haul his grain to Chillicothe, Ripley or Cincinnati.

The improvement, however, was substantial and so continued for many years. Owing to the good taste and judgment of David Hays, the natural beauty of the site was preserved in the plan of his location, and the width of the streets furnished opportunity for grass plats and shade trees which add so much to the beauty of the town and excite the admiration of all who visit it.

Nothing can better show the contrast between the past and present, and the improvement in material growth, than to recall some of the houses first built and then to look at those now standing on the same sites or upon other lots, but devoted to the same purpose.

Notice the evolution from the log school house on the lot now occupied by the residence of Mr. J. D. Spargur to the handsome Washington building on the corner of Beech and East streets.

And this is shown, too, by the number of fine church buildings which have taken the place of smaller ones or unsightly tenements; and in the attractive buildings of the Iron-Clad Clothing Store, Bell's Opera House

**Perfect Weather Aided in Making the Occasion a Grand and Glorious Success.**

**Five Bands Furnished Abundance of Excellent Music at all Times.**

**Magnificent Display of Fire-works Tuesday Evening. Camp Fire at Opera House Closed the Exercises.**

and others where small frame structures formerly stood. It is seen, also, in the compactly built and thickly settled parts of town originally laid out, and in the growth of adjoining parts.

The north-west portion of the town beyond Beech and West streets which is now covered by dwelling houses and manufactories, was within the recollection of many of us, pasture and wood land, in which the boys gathered walnuts and played town ball, while the south-east quarter beyond East and High, was the home of the hazel bush and the persimmon tree.

On the ground where Mr. Joseph Richards now lives, was a race track, and it was there that the great Harrison meeting was held in 1840; and a log cabin built during that campaign, stood for many years where Stabler's Store is now located.

The whole of the lot from his corner store room, where the Hillsboro Bank now stands, to the alley between the store rooms of Spargur and Richards, was the garden of B. H. Johnson, and that of the present site of Bell's Opera House the garden of John Smith.

At an early day stages were run to Chillicothe, Maysville and Cincinnati, but the greater part of the travel was on horseback or by private conveyances. The turnpikes were not then begun or only partly built, and during certain seasons of the year the roads were almost impassable, so communications with other places at such times was a difficult matter, and while the traveler was somewhat aided by corduroy roads, his comfort was not increased when riding over them in coach or carriage.

Goods purchased elsewhere by merchants and grocers, were brought here in wagons, and a teamster with his large conestoga and four or six horses would make a round trip to Cincinnati each week and haul freight enough at one load to stock an ordinary country store.

The arrival of the stage was a matter of daily interest, as they brought the mails and the latest news from the outer world, and to listen to the "winding horn" as they approached the town, and to watch the driver turn the corner at full gallop, was the daily delight of the school boy and the source of his ambition to be a stage driver.

The town was incorporated under a special act of the legislature passed in 1814, the governing body consisting of a president, recorder and five trustees, called the select council.

An election for corporation officers appears to have been held on March 4, 1816, and the total vote cast was 21; and it would seem from this that the village was not very populous up to that time, although the tax duplicate at that time indicates about 200 inhabitants. Evidently a public office at that day was considered a public trust, for among the first regulations adopted for the government of the corporation, was a provision that any person elected to any office and refusing to serve should be liable to a fine of four dollars.

The same year a valuation of the property of the town was made for taxation, and it is interesting to note the difference in values of that and the present day, as well as the difference in the rate of taxation.

For instance, the Smith corner which shows the highest appraisal, and which then included the whole of in-lot 52, where Mrs. Scott's fine block and Bell's Opera House now stands, was valued at \$3,500, and the total tax assessed upon it, was \$8.72.

In 1817 a market house was built on Short street on the site of the present jail, and an ordinance passed providing that a market should be held on Wednesday and Saturday of each week, from break of day until 9 o'clock a. m., and making it a penal

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